

(Rs. in crore)

| Period | Subsidy paid on urea | Concession paid on decontrolled phosphatic and potassic fertilizers |
|----------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1998-99 | 7597.22 | 3789.94 |
| 1999-2000 | 8744.07 | 4500.00 |
| 2000-2001 (RE) | 9481.00 | 4319.00 |

(b) Government continues to provide subsidy on urea and concession on decontrolled phosphatic and potassic fertilizers with the objective of making available fertilizers to farmers at affordable prices. The figures of expenditure on subsidy and concession, as given above in reply to part (a) of the Question, show that the quantum of subsidy on fertilizers is increasing.

(c) There is no proposal, at present, for removal of subsidy on fertilizers.

New Drug Policy

4603. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news/report appearing in the Business Standard dated 3rd January, 2001, under the caption, "Drug Policy further mired-another working group set up";

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government to the observations made therein and facts of the matter; and

(c) by when Government are expected to take a final view on the New Drug Policy, to make india a global hub for producing medicines, as well as R&D activities for Multi-National Companies?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA): (a) to (c) There is no news item captioned 'Drug Policy further mired-another working group set up'

appearing in the Business Standard dated 3rd January, 2001 (Delhi Edition). However, the Drug Policy is reviewed from time to time keeping the exigencies of public interest in view.

Demand, production and consumption of fertilizers

†4604. **SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI**: Will the Minister of **CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS** be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details regarding demand, production and the actual consumption of fertilizers, during the last three years, ending the year 2000, State-wise, production-wise and variety-wise;

(b) whether some fertilizers were impored during the above period;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what has been the standard of working of Government and private fertilizer undertakings during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA):- (a) State-wise demand/ consumption and production of different fertilizer nutrients during the last three years are given in Statement (*see below*).

(b) and (c) Urea is the only fertilizer which is under statutory price and movement control and whose imports are made on Government account to bridge the gap between requirement and indigenous availabaility through designated canalizing agencies. Other major fertilizers namely DAP and MOP have been decontrolled and their imports decanalized w.e.f. 17.9.1992 and 17.6.1993, respectively. The imports of these fertilizers are made freely on private trade account. The details of imports of fertilizers during the last three years are tabulated below:—

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.